

AMENDED CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting leaks in at least one sealed contact lens package, wherein said at least one sealed contact lens package comprises a closure that is deformable when subjected to an air pressure below atmospheric pressure, said method comprising
loading said at least one contact lens package to a chamber;
wherein said chamber may be opened and closed to allow for loading and unloading of said at least one contact lens package,
wherein said chamber when closed can be evacuated or returned to atmospheric pressure,
wherein said chamber comprises at least one mechanical switch, comprising a head, a tail, and a sensor,
wherein said head is located a first fixed distance from said deformable closure, and said tail is located a second fixed distance from said sensor,
when said chamber is closed at atmospheric pressure;
closing said chamber and reducing the pressure in said chamber to a level below the internal pressure of said at least one contact lens package and its contents; and
determining whether said mechanical switch is open or closed.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein said pressure is reduced to about -70 kPa.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein said head is spring loaded against the surface of said deformable closure when said chamber is closed under atmospheric pressure.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein the method is complete in less than 10 seconds.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein the method is complete in less than 5 seconds.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein said pressure is reduced to about -50 kPa.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12 wherein said pressures is reduced to between about -70 kPa and about -50 kPa.

21.(New) A method for detecting leaks in at least one sealed contact lens package containing a contact lens and packaging solution, wherein said at least one sealed contact lens package comprises a closure that is deformable when subjected to an air pressure below atmospheric pressure, said method comprising

loading said at least one contact lens package to a chamber;
wherein said chamber may be opened and closed to allow for
loading and unloading of said at least one contact lens
package,
wherein said chamber when closed can be evacuated or
returned to atmospheric pressure,
wherein said chamber comprises at least one mechanical
switch, comprising a head, a tail, and a sensor,
wherein said head is located a first fixed distance
from said deformable closure, and said tail is
located a second fixed distance from said sensor,
when said chamber is closed at atmospheric pressure;
closing said chamber and reducing the pressure in said
chamber to a level below the internal pressure of said at
least one contact lens package and its contents; and
determining whether said mechanical switch is open or closed.